

As we take time this month to acknowledge the exceptional efforts of caregivers, I would like to make special note of the many organizations that advocate, develop best practice programs, and provide resources for millions of caregivers around the nation, including many in Massachusetts. The ARC of Greater Plymouth County, Friends Or Relatives With Autism and Related Disabilities (FORWARD), Alzheimer's Family Support Center of Cape Cod, Coastline Elderly, and Old Colony Elder Services are but a few of the instrumental organizations assisting caregivers in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Speaker, during National Family Caregivers Month, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the dedication of caregivers and to pledge our continued support for their selfless efforts.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN
RHONDA R. POWELL

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. LEWIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Captain Rhonda Powell, a daughter of Metro Atlanta, for her extraordinary service to the nation while serving in the United States Army for the past 23 years.

Since the beginning of her career, Captain Powell exhibited a steadfast commitment and dedication to serving her country. A graduate of the University of Memphis and George Washington University, Captain Powell has been stationed in Fort Gillem, Fort Bragg, and is currently a congressional legislative liaison to the Office of the Chief, Army Reserve for the U.S. Department of Defense at the Pentagon.

While deployed in Doha, Qatar from 2006–2007, Captain Powell served as the detachment commander of the 312th Adjutant General Company in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom to Camp As Sayliyah. Captain Powell exhibited strong operational planning and intelligence analysis, and assumed duties as the officer in charge (OIC) of the Quick Reaction Force element on Camp As Sayliyah. She not only supported the health, welfare, morale, and development of her assigned soldiers, but also led her team in rapid responses to threats and other developments on or near the base.

In her current role interfacing with the U.S. Congress, Captain Powell used her experience in military relations to establish the Soldiers and Leaders United Through Engagements (SALUTE) Program. This unique and timely initiative helps connect Members of Congress with issues and experiences facing American soldiers.

Upon her retirement next month, Captain Powell plans to return to her roots in Atlanta, where her parents still reside near Howell Mill Road, and to begin a new chapter of her life. Mr. Speaker, I join others in congratulating and thanking Captain Powell, for her service, perseverance, hard work, and contributions to our nation. I and the other residents of Georgia's 5th Congressional District are happy and proud to welcome her home.

TRIBUTE TO DR. BILLYE BROWN

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the first registered nurse elected to the U.S. Congress, I would like to take a moment to congratulate a remarkable woman for her remarkable devotion to the nursing community, as well as wish her a safe and happy 90th birthday.

Dr. Billye Brown graduated from nursing school at Arkansas Baptist Hospital in Little Rock and received a Bachelor's degree in Nursing Education from the University of Texas' Medical Branch School of Nursing at Galveston, Texas. She earned her Master's degree in Nursing Education from St. Louis University and a Doctor of Education degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

Internationally recognized as a leader in education and administration, Dr. Billye J. Brown has been at the forefront of nursing for more than 30 years through her achievements as both professor and dean at the University of Texas at Austin School of Nursing, and as a prominent leader in nursing's most distinguished professional organizations.

In 2013, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, a subsidiary of the American Nurses Association, awarded Billye its prestigious President's Award to honor her lifetime contributions to the nursing profession, including her support of original research in the 1980s that led to the establishment of ANCC's Magnet Recognition Program.

During her years at The University of Texas at Austin, Billye was dean and professor of the School of Nursing for 17 years. Billye's visionary approach to teaching and administration led to her appointment as the LaQuinta Motor Inns Centennial Professor in 1983 and her induction into the Hall of Fame at the University of Texas' School of Nursing at Galveston in 1992.

Her numerous professional awards and honors include being named Nurse of the Year by the Texas Nurses' Association; her selection as one of the Most Influential Women in Education by the Austin American Statesman; and resolutions passed by the State of Texas Senate and House of Representatives acknowledging her contributions to nursing.

At the national and international level, Billye is widely respected for her service as past president of both the American Association of Colleges of Nursing and Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI). As chairman of the fundraising task force for STTI, Billye led a successful multi-year campaign that produced more than \$7 million in planned gifts. She was honored by the AACN with the Sister Bernadette Armiger Award.

In 1999, STTI selected Billye for the Mary Tolle Wright Award for Excellence in Leadership and announced the formation of the Billye Brown Society to pay homage to her dedication to planned giving efforts that contribute to the advancement of scholarly nursing. She was recognized with the Nell J. Watts Lifetime Achievement in Nursing Award at the 2007 STTI Biennial Convention. Billye was recognized as the 2010 American Academy of Nursing Living Legend, and in 2011 she was selected to receive the prestigious National

League for Nursing President's Award for an Enduring Legacy in Nursing Education.

Mr. Speaker, the only list more longer and more plentiful than the list of Billye's professional achievements is the list of people whose lives she has touched. She dedicated her life to nursing because it is a profession on the forefront of patient care, human interaction, and practiced compassion. Her work is selfless, but she is so humble, she would never even say that. Her life is for others, but today is for her. May the RECORD recognize Dr. Billye Brown's historic career and milestone birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
DIABETES MONTH

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Diabetes Month, during which we reflect on the importance of understanding, treating, and caring for this serious condition.

The diabetes endemic is a present and growing threat in today's society. Close to 30 million Americans have diabetes, while another 86 million are pre-diabetic. According to the Centers for Disease Control, if current trends continue, 1 in 3 Americans will have diabetes by 2050.

The economic burden of diabetes, pre-diabetes and the largely preventable chronic diseases resulting from diabetes costs the United States approximately \$245 billion. Many of these costs are associated with diabetes-related complications, including kidney failure, blindness, and amputations. Diabetes is also a major cause of heart disease and stroke.

To address this problem, it is critical that we make investments in diabetes prevention, care, and treatment. In my district and throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, citizens are benefiting from the exceptional efforts of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the New England Office of the American Diabetes Association. These organizations are dedicated to raising awareness, providing support to patients and families, and funding promising diabetes research. Both of these organizations are also extraordinary advocates on behalf of families and individuals living with diabetes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring November as National Diabetes Month and in supporting diabetes research and care.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 117
VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to submit a Veterans Day speech written and delivered by Mr. Don Hirst to American Legion Post 117 on Veterans Day 2015.